

Spark Gap

Vol. 28, Issues 1, January 2011 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for twenty-seven Years*

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## *From the desk of the President:*

It's time again to remind everyone that membership dues are payable in January. Our annual dues of \$18 are very reasonable compared to most radio clubs. Dues are set by the Club Bylaws and run from January through December of each year.

We are fortunate to have a nice meeting location, as well as a home for our club station that is provided by Johnson County at no cost to us. We are very fortunate to have new, modern equipment provided courtesy of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Tug Sutton (KC9OQY) and Don West (W9DEW) were instrumental in getting this accomplished. The White River Township Fire Department provides a first class location and tower for our repeater, again at no cost.

Although our overhead is low, we still depend on dues for operating expenses. We must pay for website hosting and our domain name, club liability insurance, Federal and State tax filings, 501(c)3 report filing, Indiana Business Entity filings, and IRCC dues. Member dues also help pay for the annual picnic, Field Day food and drink, donuts, coffee and other refreshments at club meetings, and flowers for our Silent Keys. We pay for instructional materials and handouts for our license classes. There are also unexpected expenses, such as repair of radio equipment, or needed upgrades to the station or repeater. Maintenance of the repeater shack put a dent in the 2010 budget, but it was badly needed. We need everyone's support to keep the club viable, by keeping your dues current, plus attending meetings and other activities. The rewards of being in a club are proportional to your participation.

--Steve K9DY

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INDIANA SLOW CODE NET

ICN is the Indiana Slow Code Traffic Net

It can be found every night on 3535 at 00:00Z for now.

ICN needs some volunteers to serve as NCS operators; you need to be a current dues paid ARRL member.

If you are interested in serving as NCS, let me know what night is good for you. I would like to have 14 volunteers so we only have to serve as NCS a couple of times a month. If you have never been an NCS, you are who I prefer. This is a slow code beginner net for ops that are interested in operating CW, and learning how to pass traffic.

We run at about 13 WPM or less, we will slow down to your speed.

..... 73 de KB9BVN

M.A.R.C. 2010 REVIEW

From the President:

As we end another year, let's review some of the club's recent events and activities. First, I would like to note the passing in 2010 of past officers Dave Wendt, KA9OOH, and Carol Osborne, KC9CFK. They will always be remembered for their devotion to the club.

All club officers were elected to remain in their respective offices for another term. Rhonda Curtis, WS9H, was appointed to VE Team Leader, replacing Dave Wendt. Bob LaGrange, N9SIU, took on the Spark Gap newsletter responsibilities, replacing Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH.

The VE team was privileged to test and pass eight year old Nicholas Walter (KC9RMR), who became one of the youngest locally to pass his Technician exam. We acquired new radios compliments of Homeland Security grants to upgrade our emergency communications capability. We now have a new Icom IC-718, and Yaesu FT-857D with a Buddipole Deluxe portable antenna system. Those radios, along with the other new equipment that was authorized last year has provided us with a top notch radio room with modern equipment.

Field Day 2010 was successfully held at N9LC's QTH. In only 6 hours, our limited operation netted 70 HF contacts with 24 states and 2 Canadian provinces. We set up another portable operation at the WRTFD Strawberry Festival again this year and had a good location accessible to the public to tout amateur radio. The Indy Hamfest gave us the opportunity to dig out surplus and some donated equipment that was gathering dust in the radio room, and convert it to assets for the club treasury. We generated some cash and were able to clean out some clutter.

The annual Hilltop operating event, sponsored by the Indianapolis Radio Club each August, has become a regular get away for several of our club members. MARC members captured first place in the multi-op category this year. The annual picnic was again held at the Union Christian Church in Franklin. This was the first time in many years we were not treated to a hot bowl of J.R.'s famous, spicy chili. September was another opportunity for public service, as MARC members provided essential communication to support the Greenwood Band Invitational. We also helped support the Johnson County sheriff department with our annual Goblin Patrol on Halloween evening. Fortunately, we were only needed on a few occasions this past year to activate severe weather nets at the request of the National Weather Service. Those times saw good support, as many base and mobile stations participated.

The old repeater shack at the base of the tower behind the EOC received a major renovation in October, with a thorough interior cleaning, added insulation, rotting wood trim replacement, and caulking and painting. The repeater link is now installed in the shack and is undergoing final testing and adjustment. The monthly meetings saw a wide variety of subjects presented. We had Randy Ollis from WISH TV talk about the weather. Robert Bishop, KB9MEH and Al Grossinklaus, WD8BUG, talked about how they coordinate the radio frequencies at NFL games at Lucas Oil Stadium and at the Super Bowl. Charles Dawes, KC9OKL, gave a "how to" lesson on GeoCaching, and finding "treasures" with your GPS. In November, Marc Snell, KC9CCM, and Dennis Snell, KC9CCO, explained the theory and application of SWR. This marked the first of a "Back to Basics" series that we hope to have at each meeting. The goal is to learn more about radio and electronic topics, and to keep our knowledge of the hobby fresh and interesting.

---Steve K9DY

FOR THE BRASS POUNDERS

INDIANA HF NETS

Net Name	Frequency	Local Day	Year Round Local Eastern Time	UTC Time when Indiana on	
				EST	EDT
Indiana Section CW Net (QIN)	3.535	Daily	09:30	14:30	13:30
Indiana Section CW Net (QIN)	3.535	Daily	See Below *	*	*
Indiana Traffic Net (ITN)	3.910	Daily	08:30	13:30	12:30
Indiana Traffic Net (ITN)	3.910	Daily	16:30	21:30	20:30
ARES Emergency Net	3.910	4th Sunday	08:00	13:00	12:00

Net Name	Frequency	Local Day	Year Round UTC Time	Local Time when Indiana on	
				EST	EDT
Indiana Section CW Net (QIN)*	3.535	Daily	00:00	19:00	20:00

LETTER TO ALL ARES MEMBERS

To all Indiana ARES team members,

Thanks to the many ARES team members who have expressed congratulatory comments upon my recent appointment as Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at upcoming hamfests and town hall meetings to be scheduled.

It is imperative for ARES leaders to build strong working relationships at all levels from county to district to state. Getting to know each other better is a good first step. As was previously suggested by the Fayette County EC, Jerry Fray N9TU, and endorsed by Section Manager John Poindexter, I have prepared and uploaded a biographical statement for myself in the <FILES/BIO> folder on this Yahoo group. I would encourage all ARES appointees to similarly post a biography to help us get to know each other better. I can help create a PDF file for uploading if you send me your text or MSWord document.

Tony Langer put the Indiana ARES team on a sound course. I plan to continue and hopefully grow many of the policies Tony implemented.

The "We Are Active" motto will continue. We need to occasionally ask ourselves, "What have I done to improve ARES recently?" Amateur radio is a hobby and we all voluntarily participate to the extent our available time, energy, money, and other necessary commitments allow us. A periodic review of the Amateur Radio Code of Conduct is a worthwhile reminder to keep a healthy life enriching balance between family, work, faith and lower priority pursuits such as amateur radio. In an emergency, your family safety and personal well-being must be secured before you can participate in an ARES activation. This is a good policy to follow in our non-emergency daily lives as well.

Please submit all annual EC reports to me and copy Steve Ewald at ARRL HQ (sewald@arrl.org). Tony has forwarded some previously submitted reports, but let's not continue to rely on Tony to forward them. We will continue the monthly ARES HF net on the 4th Sunday at 8am(EST) / 7am(CST) local on 3910kHz. I have some ideas about changing the format and I'd like your feedback.

1) I'd prefer to call the net by district number rather than county alphabetically. This gives me a better sense of regional issues and concerns that may be discussed during the net. I'd like to call for check-ins from a given district, and have each operator state his call sign phonetically, name, and county. I'll recognize each check-in and ask for comments before moving on to the next district. MARS, CAP, RACES and out of state check-ins will be called following the districts.

2) Comment topics I'd like to hear on the net (but not strictly limited to) include

- a) upcoming event announcements
- b) mutual aid requests for events and drills
- c) notable lessons learned from recent events and drills
- d) issues an EC has faced and resolved
- e) issues an EC faces and wants help to resolve

We may not have time on the net to answer every concern, but we can recognize the issue and plan to discuss it later on another frequency, by email, or phone. Formal message traffic is better suited for the twice daily NTS net and so I'd prefer not handling it on the once monthly ARES HF net. A request to pass traffic following the net is acceptable.

I've set a goal for myself to visit each district at least once per year and coordinate a town hall meeting through the county EC's to exchange ideas for improving ARES. All team members will be welcome to attend, but I'll need the DEC/EC's to help coordinate the logistics. Due to the travel time and my other commitments, these meetings will need to occur on Saturdays and I hope to schedule at least one per month. Please work with me to accomplish this goal.

To all ARES team members, as issues arise, please work within the level of Field Organization best suited to handle it. Leaders closest to the issue with the most at stake to resolve the issue should be involved first. I welcome questions, comments, and concerns from all team members, but for the sake of efficiency, please try to resolve concerns before they become significant problems and do so at the appropriate level of authority. Let's respect each others opinions, focus on how to best serve our communities, and avoid personal feuds that destroy team cohesion. Nothing undermines a team quicker than forgetting we all volunteered to use our talents and the privileges issued by the FCC to serve our communities in times of need. Keep that mission in mind and don't sweat the petty things.

73,

Joseph, K9RFZ

* Joseph, K9RFZ has just accepted the ARRL appointment of State Emergency Coordinator (SEC). I felt that his goals should be shared with all. Johnson County ARES is always looking for new members. If you would like to volunteer your services to the county and community at large please contact me.

..... Bob N9SIU, Johnson County Emergency Coordinator (EC)

ARLB003 New Amateur Radio Bill Introduced in Congress

ZCZC AG03
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 11, 2011

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB003
ARLB003 New Amateur Radio Bill Introduced in Congress

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act, which died at the end of the 111th Congress, has been reintroduced in the 112th Congress as HR 81. The sponsor is Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). The new bill -- which was introduced on January 5 -- has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Rep Jackson Lee first introduced the bill -- HR 2160 -- in the 111th Congress in April 2009. It gained an additional 41 co-sponsors but did not progress out of the committee of jurisdiction. A similar bill introduced in the Senate -- S 1755 -- made it all the way through that body in December 2009, but likewise was not taken up by the House.

The objective of the bill -- which is supported by the ARRL -- is for the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief and to identify and make recommendations regarding impediments to Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations.

"We are hopeful that this early start will lead to success in the new Congress," commented ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

HR 81 can be found on the web in PDF format at,
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr81ih/pdf/BILLS-112hr81ih.pdf>.

NNNN
/EX

2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JANUARY 2011

16 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

FEBRUARY 2011

19 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

2011 Indiana Hamfests

Feb 26	Cabin Fever Hamfest , LaPorte Civic Auditorium, LaPorte IN, 7 AM till 1 PM CST, http://k9jsi.org/ , Info N9ROH@csinet.net
March 5	Dugger Hamfest , Dugger Community Building, South Hicum Street (just off State Road 54) Dugger, IN 47848, http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html
March 26	Columbus Hamfest Location: Bartholomew Co. Fairgrounds Columbus, IN Sponsor: Columbus Amateur Radio Club http://www.qsl.net/carc
April 16	North Central Indiana Hamfest , Miami County 4-H Fairground, Miami County Road 200 North & Mexico Road, Peru IN http://www.nci-hamfest.net/
June 11	South Bend Indiana Hamfest , Elks Club, 3535 E. McKinley Avenue, South Bend, IN http://www.w9ab.org/
July 9	Indianapolis Hamfest , Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis, http://www.indyhamfest.com
Nov. 19-20	Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo , Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com



SUMMER IS NOT TOO FAR AWAY?

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

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**WA9RDF**

**Repeater**

**146.835/**

**146.235 MHz**

**151.4 Hz PL**

**Tone**

**Weekly Net Sunday Evening 7:00 PM**

**Club Officers:**

**President: Steve Carmean - K9DY**

**Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT**

**Secretary: Robert Jones – KC9NJM**

**Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG**

**Repeater Trustee: Jay Chrismon – AA9YP**

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The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836

Franklin, Indiana

46131

Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month